

Appl. No. 10/825,679
Reply Filed: April 17, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 16 as follows, cancel claims 4, 12, 20-42, and add new claim 43.
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A file management system, comprising:
a proxy file system for managing a plurality of proxy files, wherein the plurality of proxy files are associated with counterpart data files in a shared storage and include information for accessing the counterpart data files from the shared storage, the shared storage comprising a port to receive access via a network from a plurality of clients and one or more structured data archives distributed among one or more network-based data processing systems, and the accessing information comprising information indicating locations of the counterpart files on the shared storage; and
a controller for controlling access by the plurality of clients to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the proxy file system.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to provide the clients with access to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the access information included in the proxy files.
3. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to: recognize attempts by the clients to access the counterpart data files in the shared storage; retrieve from the proxy files the information for accessing the counterpart data files from the shared storage in response to the access attempts; and provide the clients with access to the counterpart data files in the shared storage using the access information retrieved from the proxy files.
4. (canceled)
5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy file system comprises a non-sharable file system running on a local disk coupled to the controller.

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6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy file system comprises at least one module to facilitate at least one of the following functions: security, locking, file sharing, and change notifications.
7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy file system is smaller in size than the shared storage.
8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a server.
9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the controller comprises:
an allocator module for allocating and de-allocating portions of the shared storage to the counterpart data files; and
a network interface module for facilitating communications with the plurality of clients.
10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the allocator module comprises program code for managing a plurality of allocation units.
11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the allocation units indicate locations of portions of the shared storage allocated to information in the counterpart data files.
12. (canceled)
13. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of clients include software for communicating with the controller and the shared storage.
14. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a secondary controller configured to mirror the controller and replace the controller if the controller is disabled.
15. (original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a secondary proxy file system coupled to the secondary controller.

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43. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the proxy files further include attribute information associated with counterpart data files useful to applications accessing the counterpart data files.